

## 00009-22 Key Points on Potential Impacts to Critical Infrastructure - Convoy in Ottawa - Jan 29 2022, 17:00 EDT

**From:** "Challenger, Desmond" <desmond.challenger@ps-sp.gc.ca>  
**To:** zita.astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca, christina.rettig@qpc-cpr.gc.ca, radey.barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca, annie.cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca, "Williams, Caroline (Ext.)" <caroline.williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>, duncan.tooley@qpc-cpr.gc.ca, PS.O Ministers Office / Cabinet du ministre O.SP <ps.ministersoffice-cabinetduministre.sp@ps-sp.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** "Bhupsingh, Trevor" <trevor.bhupsingh@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Reid, Raymond" <raymond.reid@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Pare, Loic" <loic.pare@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Horonowitsch, Emily" <emily.horonowitsch@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Cohen, Alexander" <alexander.cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "MacBride, Craig" <craig.macbride@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Jones, Mike" <mike.jones@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Kurusamy, Gowthaman" <gowthaman.kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "McDaniel, Carly" <carly.mcdaniel@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Trehearne, Deryck" <deryck.trehearne@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Bolduc, Francis" <francis.bolduc@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Tanguy, Patrick" <patrick.tanguy@pco-bcp.gc.ca>, "Chaloner, Laura" <laura.chaloner@ps-sp.gc.ca>  
**Date:** Sat, 29 Jan 2022 22:14:57 +0000

**Good afternoon Colleagues,**  
**New information in bold as of 16:00 EDT**

For information on planned traffic routes, please refer to the following webmap: [Link to webmap](#)  
For near-real time updates on the city of Ottawa road closures and traffic updates, please refer to [Traffic.Ottawa.ca](#) and updates on @Ottawa\_Traffic and @Ottawa\_Circule.

### **Overview**

- Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS began requiring non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals.”  
[Link](#)

### **Key Points**

#### **Details on Demonstrations**

- **As of 14:30 EDT, there were approximately 6,000-7,000 people on Parliament Hill and the crowd was growing. People were coming from Gatineau from across the Alexandra Bridge.**
- **Thousands of people are also walking in clockwise circuit around Parliament Hill, to the Museum of History, and back.**
  - CBC reported that PM Trudeau had left Rideau Cottage for an undisclosed location. [Link](#)
- The Parliamentary Protective Service expects as many as 10,000 protesters to be in attendance on 29 Jan. [Link](#)
- The OPS indicated that as of 11:55 convoys (3000+ vehicles) were arriving from the west, south, east. It was expected to take three hours for the entire convoy to reach the city centre.
  - **The West convoy has arrived and entering Ottawa at the Pinecrest exit off Highway 417, there is a 20km backup on the 417.**
  - **The East convoy continues to arrive at the Aviation Parkway with a 30km backup on the 417.**
  - **All convoys on Highway 416 have arrived in downtown Ottawa.**
- Rideau center has closed due to individuals not following public health protocols.

- There have not been any reports of impacts to CI or federal buildings.
- A NOTAM has been issued with an airspace restriction over downtown Ottawa extending from Victoria Island to New Edinburgh, including the Byward Market, Lowertown and over the Ottawa River, to include a section of downtown Hull/Gatineau.
- Additional demonstrations being planned across Canada.
  - “Slow roll” convoys at provincial [and Canada/U.S. border crossing](#) are planned over the weekend. [Link](#)
  - NS has issued a highway blockade ban, prohibiting partial or complete blockades on all the roads in the province ahead of demonstrations on 29 Jan. [Link](#)
  - In Windsor, ON, more than 200 vehicles met at Mic Mac Park on the morning of 29 Jan to take part in a slow roll cruise on Huron Church Road to Highway 401. [Link](#)
  - Two convoys were scheduled to roll into Regina on 29 Jan for a rally in front of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. One group of vehicles met in Saskatoon and headed down Highway 11, while another met outside Regina at the Global Transportation Hub before making their way into the city. The first vehicles started to enter Regina around 11:30 EDT. [Link](#)
  - Demonstrations may take place at Federal buildings across Canada.

#### **Situation at the border**

- On 29 Jan, at 08:00 EDT, the Atlantic Region Operations Centre (ROC) was activated by the Regional Director General due to planned protests and blockades at the Woodstock POE and in the St. Stephen’s Area.
- Ambassador Bridge, Windsor, ON, as of 12:00 EDT, approximately 100 vehicles were driving down Huron Church Road, however it is not impacting border traffic at this time. There were approximately 40 cars protesting on the US side and their protest was not impeding operations.
- In Carway, AB, as of 11:45 EDT, a small group of about 20 vehicles were parked at the Duty Free Store north of the POE. The vehicles arrived honking horns, however none were blocking the highway. Everything remains peaceful and the protest was not affecting CBSA Operations.
- In Coutts, AB, as of 1015 CT, an estimated 1,000 conveyance convoy, stretching 50km long, was approximately 15km north of the POE. RCMP staged vehicles at the POE, ready for the arrival.
- As of 07:02 EDT, the Emerson, MB POE reported approximately 100 commercial and other vehicles assembled north of the POE. One lane on Highway 75 remained open for vehicles to pass southbound and some vehicles were seen using the turnaround lane prior to the POE to loop and go Northbound. As of 07:57 EDT, the convoy was in full swing with traffic slowly rolling.

#### **Preparedness and Response efforts**

- NCRCC has confirmed that anyone needing to get to work from Quebec (first responders, police, health care workers) can show their work ID/badge at the Chaudière Bridge and then access to Ottawa through Booth St.
- Minister Mendicino stated that Ottawa's police officers will be supported by other police and national security forces. [Link](#)
- On 29 Jan, The Solicitor General of ON submitted a Request for Federal Assistance (RFA) to support the OPS with the use of a CAF facility (parking lot at the Cartier Square Drill Hall on Queen Elizabeth Drive). Later on 29 Jan, MEP in consultation with MND, approved the RFA.
- The following road closures in the NCR were in place as of 14:30 EDT, 29 Jan:
  - The Sir John A Macdonald parkway ( both between Booth and Carling and between Island Park and Booth);
  - Highway 417 at White Lake (between White Lake (Antrim Truck Stop) to the Madawaska River Bridge), the on-ramp at Highway 416, at Richmond/Bayshore Drive, at Kent, at Metcalfe and reduction at Greenbank southbound;

- MacKenzie King Bridge westbound is closed between Waller and Elgin;
- Kent northbound is closed between Queen and Wellington;
- Laurier eastbound is reduced to one lane between Elgin and Nicholas;
- The southbound lanes on the Portage Bridge are closed;
- The southbound lanes on the Chaudière Crossing are closed;
- Vanier Parkway northbound is closed at Coventry; and
- The MacDonald-Cartier bridge will be closed in an effort to divert the QC convoys away from the downtown core and into Gatineau.

**Overall Assessment:** (derived from information available on open sources):

- The majority of the event has been peaceful thus far.
- Vehicles are being redirected away from the core to mitigate road safety. OPS is asking that people do not come into the core unless it is necessary.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- Demonstrators are expected to stay throughout the weekend, although there is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.

On behalf of Deryck Trehearne, DG Government Operations Centre.

Thank you.

### **Desmond Challenger**

A/Director, Exercise, Continuous Improvement and Standards Division

Government Operations Centre / Public Safety Canada

[Desmond.Challenger@ps-sp.gc.ca](mailto:Desmond.Challenger@ps-sp.gc.ca) / Tel: 613-290-3054

Directeur P.I., Division d'exercice, d'amélioration continue et des normes

Centre des opérations du gouvernement / Sécurité publique Canada

[Desmond.Challenger@ps-sp.gc.ca](mailto:Desmond.Challenger@ps-sp.gc.ca) / Tél : 613-290-3054

*Please note that I do not expect a response in the evenings, weekends or during your time off, unless there is an urgent situation in which we are both involved.*

*Veillez noter que je n'attends pas de réponse le soir, le week-end ou pendant vos temps libres, sauf en cas de situation urgente qui nous concerne tous les deux.*